

Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Working Group

Working Document of Recommendations – initial draft for discussion purposes
prepared by Working Group Chair Carol Chodroff, 6-8-16

1. We need to streamline the process by which oversight bodies request information from Probation to avoid duplication and the unnecessary expenditure of Probation time and resources spent responding to multiple agencies, generating reports, and duplicative questions. There should be a mechanism by which one overseeing entity compiles inquiries and requests for information, and to which Probation must respond. Such streamlining might also save County resources.
2. There must be special protections for transition age youth (TAY) – ages 16 – 24 – within the Probation Department. Such protection might come in the form of a special TAY division within the Department.
3. There needs to be a process by which a comprehensive oversight entity can respond in a timely fashion (or generate a timely response from the appropriate party) to concerns and issues raised. Several existing oversight bodies currently face constraints that prohibit the ability a timely response (e.g., being limited to the “power of the pen” or the ability to generate an annual report as a response).
4. There is a need for better communication between probation oversight entities. The lack of coordination and clear lines of communication makes the department susceptible to critiques, and even lawsuits.